IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5-8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following rewritten claims in clean form. Applicant includes herewith an Attachment for Claim Amendments showing a marked up version of each amended claim.

1. (Amended) A discharge lamp comprising:

a luminous bulb in which a luminous material is enclosed and a pair of electrodes are opposed in the luminous bulb; and

a pair of sealing portions for sealing a pair of metal foils electrically connected to the pair of electrodes, respectively;

wherein at least one of the pair of sealing portions is provided with at least one constricted portion whose length in a direction substantially perpendicular to the surface of the metal foil in the sealing portion is smaller than that of other portions in the sealing portion and wherein at least one of the constricted portions is formed in an area of the sealing portion where the metal foil is disposed.

2. (Amended) The discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein at least one of the constricted portions is provided in a portion relatively nearer to the luminous bulb side, rather than a center of the sealing portion.

9. (Amended) The discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein each of the pair of sealing portions has a shrink seal structure.

portions on a side opposite to the luminous bulb side are tapered.

11. (Amended) The discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein each of the pair of metal foils is attached tightly to a glass portion extended from the luminous bulb, and

each of the pair of metal foils is a molybdenum foil.

12. (Amended) The discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein the luminous material comprises at least mercury.

13. (Amended) A lamp unit comprising the discharge lamp of claim 1 and a reflecting mirror for reflecting light emitted from the discharge lamp.

Please add the following new claims:

-- 14. A discharge lamp comprising:

a luminous bulb in which a luminous material is enclosed and a pair of electrodes are opposed in the luminous bulb; and

a pair of sealing portions for sealing a pair of metal foils electrically connected to the pair of electrodes, respectively, each of the pair of sealing portions including a shrink seal structure and each of the pair of metal foils including an external lead on a side opposite to a side electrically connected to a corresponding electrode of the pair of electrodes;

wherein at least one of the pair of sealing portions is provided with at least one constricted portion whose length in a direction substantially perpendicular to the surface of the metal foil in the sealing portion is smaller than that of other portions in the sealing portion, and wherein

at least one of the constricted portions is formed in an area between an end of the

15. The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein the length of at least one of the constricted portions in the direction substantially perpendicular to the surface of the metal foil in the sealing portion is 70 to 90% of the length of the other portions without the constricted portion.

16. The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein one of the other portions is the sealing portion wherein the electrode is disposed.

17. The discharge lamp of claim 15, wherein one of the other portions is the sealing portion where the electrode is disposed.

18. The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein at least one of the constricted portions is provided in a portion relatively nearer to the luminous bulb side, rather than a center of the sealing portion.

19. The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein a plurality of constricted portions are formed on the sealing portion.

20. The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein ends of the pair of sealing portions on a side opposite to the luminous bulb side are tapered.

21. The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein each of the pair of metal foils is attached tightly to a glass portion extended from the luminous bulb, and wherein

each of the pair of metal foils is a molybdenum foil.

22. The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein the luminous material comprises at least mercury. --